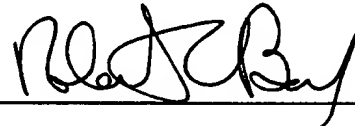


inoperative for the failure to claim priority to 08/376,067, filed January 20, 1995, issued as 5,553,611, which was co-pending and shared an inventor. Applicants will be seeking reissue of 6,420,307 to correct this defect, thereby removing that patent as a reference against later cases in the chain of priority. The requested amendment is made to claim priority to that earlier application. This RCE is filed to allow the Examiner to consider the reference and the propriety of the claim of priority under U.S. C. §120.

Respectfully submitted,
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By its attorneys:

Date:

3/12/03



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